

# Executive Summary

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## Ethnic Minority Population Highlights

- \* Utah's ethnic minorities comprise 10.7 percent of the total population; the comparable United States figure is 27.3 percent.
- \* From 1990 to 1997, Utah's total population of members of ethnic minority groups increased by 45.8 percent. The nonminority population increased by 17.0 percent. Overall, the population increased 19.5 percent.
- \* Hispanics, (excluding those who are also classified as members of a nonwhite racial group), numbered about 123,500 in 1997. They are Utah's largest ethnic minority population, comprising 6.0 percent of the total. Since 1990, this group has increased by 51.6 percent.
- \* Asians/Pacific Islanders number nearly 51,000 people and are 2.5 percent of Utah's total. Their numbers have increased by 48.4 percent since 1990.
- \* American Indians, at 29,100 and 1.4 percent of the total, have increased their count by 19.7 percent, which is slightly faster than the growth of nonminorities.
- \* Blacks, Utah's smallest major ethnic population group at 0.9 percent of the total population, grew by 51.5 percent to approximately 17,500. In the United States, blacks make up nearly one-half of U.S. minorities and are 12.7 percent of the total population.
- \* Despite the far more rapid growth of the ethnic minority population groups, the vast majority of Utahns are still nonminority -- 89.3 percent in 1997 compared to 91.2 percent in 1990 and 92.7 percent in 1980.
- \* Ten percent of the U.S. population is Hispanics, while about 4.0 percent and 1.0 percent are Asian/Pacific Islanders and American Indians, respectively.
- \* Between 1990 and 1997, Utah's population increased at nearly triple the national rate. Similarly, Utah's composite of the minority ethnic groups expanded at more than double the comparable U.S. figure.
- \* Utah's ethnic nonminority population grew at five times the very gradual increase of the U.S. nonminorities (17.0 to 3.4 percent).

## Labor Force Composition and Participation

- \* Women comprise 44.8 percent of Utah's labor force. This 1997 ratio is virtually unchanged from the 1990 Census value of 44.3 percent. However, in 1950, Utah women's labor force share was only 23.6 percent.
- \* In 1997, of all Utah's working-age (16 years and older) women, 62.5 percent were in the labor force (either working or looking for work). By comparison, 59.8 percent of U.S. women participated in the labor force.

\* Since 1950, female labor force participation in Utah has increased by 2½ times (from 25.3 to 62.5 percent). Concurrently, male participation rates have remained roughly unchanged. Thus, due largely to the greater likelihood of women being in the labor force, the overall labor force participation is much greater than it was in 1950.

### **Unemployment Rates**

\* In 1997, Utah's unemployment rate was 3.1, the lowest level for this indicator since the 1950 inception of the current estimation procedures and definitions. The rates for men and women are virtually the same—3.1 and 3.2, respectively. By contrast, the 1970 Census reported that the unemployment rate for Utah women, at 5.9, was 1.2 points higher than for Utah men.

\* The unemployment rate of Utah's ethnic minorities is approximately double that of nonminorities. American Indians' 10 percent unemployment is roughly triple the overall rate and is highest of all ethnic groups.

### **Characteristics of Department of Workforce Services (DWS) Active Applicants**

\* Women comprise 45.8 percent of Utah's March 31, 1999 DWS active applicants\* file, which closely corresponds to their share of the total unemployed (45.1 percent in 1997). Similarly, 18.1 percent of the active file are members of ethnic minority populations, while 18.8 percent of the jobless are ethnic minorities.

\* In 1996, 42.7 percent of active applicants were women and 13.6 percent were ethnic minorities. DWS is apparently serving both of these populations more effectively.

\* Female active applicants are clustered in the occupations typically held by women and comprise very small shares of the applicants with traditionally male occupations. Moreover, ethnic minorities are over-represented in machine trades and packaging/materials handling, while they are grossly under-represented in applications for professional/technical/managerial jobs.

\* Any Job-seeking registrant who has actively participated in job-seeking activities in the past 60 days, or until they enter employment.